

Ward 6 Staff



Steve Kozachik
Council Member



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Ward 6 – Newsletter

FEBRUARY 9, 2011

A Message from Steve

More budget updates today in our study session. We continue to gather input from staff that will result in some very difficult decisions in the coming weeks. Today I wanted to focus on the fact that our General Fund is annually being drained of tens of millions of dollars in pension contributions for both current and retired employees. Whether or not we are making our appropriate 100% annual contribution to the fund (which we have been) isn't the point. The fact is that these contribution rates will continue to escalate unless and until we get relief from either the State Legislature or the courts. My hope is that the State will begin to focus less on how they can strip local jurisdictions of our revenue base (SB1220 and SB1221) and instead look at our structural deficits and see how they can be of help. You are their constituents, too, so it is a mystery to me why our Southern Arizona delegation is not standing up in support of local control of our own tax dollars and taxing authority, and working to help to relieve our deficit burden by adopting legislation that we cannot implement on the local level related to pension obligations and other revenue generating ideas.

Next week we will receive our revenue update. Once those figures begin to filter in, we'll have a more complete picture relative to each side of the budget ledger. We will also be looking at some growth projections from several sources. Nobody has a crystal ball, so taking into account a variety of perspectives will give us the ability to try to find a middle ground and not overshoot the mark in terms of our anticipated growth as we combine that with the remainder of the budget line items and bring it into balance for Fiscal Year 2012. We will not get to balance over the long term if we do not grow the employment base in our community.

To that end, we took an important step Tuesday night by unanimously passing a memorial which will be forwarded onto our Congressional delegation in support of consolidating the 612th Air Operations Center at Davis Monthan AFB. The Department of Defense is trying to cut \$100 billion from its federal budget. To that end, they are consolidating many functions. Air Operations Centers are, in essence, high-tech air traffic control units. In 2007, DM upgraded its facilities and invested over \$50 million in the process. The DOD is considering closing either the DM site, or a similar site at Tyndall AFB in Florida. The jobs we would gain, or lose if we do not win the consolidation, are non-flying positions in the technical air ops field. If we are to grow our way out of the fiscal





Important Phone Numbers

Tucson Police Department

911 or 791-4444
nonemergency

Mayor & Council Comment Line

791-4700

Neighborhood Resources

791-4605

Park Wise

791-5071

Water Issues

791-3242

Pima County Animal Control

243-5900

Street Maintenance 791-3154

Planning and Development Services 791-5550

Southwest Gas

889-1888

Gas Emergency/ Gas Leaks

889-1888

West Nile Virus Hotline

243-7999

Environment Service

791-3171

Graffiti Removal

792-2489

AZ Game & Fish 628-5376

Continued: A Message From Steve

problem I write about each week, these are the sorts of jobs we need to attract. Stay tuned. DOD is supposed to make this decision very soon.

We discussed whether or not to issue General Obligation Bonds. While the knee-jerk reaction to taking on more debt might be to avoid it, there are some legitimate possible uses for those sorts of bonds. They are paid for by property taxes. My point to the City Manager and staff was to bring to us some "necessities" that we can consider. In particular I suggested road repairs and deferred maintenance projects. These are the sorts of bonded projects that will cost us even more money later if we don't take care of them in the near term. It's like fixing the roof on your house when the shingles begin to come loose. If you don't nip it in the bud, your costs will be even greater when you are facing an entire roof replacement. We'll have that list in the next few weeks and can then decide on whether or not, and when to bring these forward. Whatever we propose will require a vote of the people or the bonds cannot be sold.

The issue of Neighborhood Design Manuals was back in front of us again today. I've written about it before - the balancing act of how to preserve the integrity of our neighborhood core, attracting appropriate development onto the arterials and in the process relieving the strain of inadequate numbers of student housing that is resulting from enrollment increases at the University. We were presented with three Design Manual proposals. One was put together by the builders. All of their design standards were listed as "advisory". That's unacceptable. Another was put together by City staff, and the final one was put together by neighborhood residents. Staff confirmed that the neighborhood recommendations are more restrictive than those of staff. While that means on the one hand that they protect the neighborhoods from inappropriate development, it also means that they make the City more vulnerable to being on the losing end of a lawsuit which will result if we eventually adopt the more restrictive code provisions. I voted to move the process along with the Staff recommendations being the basis of the manuals being designed. The majority of the council voted to endorse the neighborhood version. That's what staff will move through the process, working towards a vote on a final version sometime around April. While they work on that version, there is also in process a challenge to the propriety of "mini-dorm" style homes in R-1 neighborhoods, the lawsuit that has already been filed over the Feldman's Neighborhood Design Manual, and a series of meetings I have begun with Council Member Uhlich related to behavioral issues and how the City, University, builders and neighbors can work together to ameliorate those in the neighborhood cores. No easy answers to any of this.

Finally, tonight a group held a rally outside of council chambers in support of the recently passed State Legislation that forces cities to allow guns in city parks. I did not support that pre-emptive legislation, taking the position that regardless of how one stands on the issue of guns in parks, it is not the purview of the State Legislature to be making that decision for local jurisdictions. The courts have been clear in allowing regulation of 1st Amendment speech rights, as they have in allowing reasonable controls on 2nd Amendment gun



Important Phone Numbers

Senator John
McCain (R)
520-670-6334

Senator Jon Kyl (R)
520-575-8633

Congresswoman
Gabrielle Giffords
(D)
(8th District)
520-881-3588

Congressman
Raul Grijalva (D)
(7th District)
520-622-6788

Governor Janice
Brewer (R)
Governor of Arizona
602-542-4331

Toll free:
1-800-253-0883

State Legislators

Toll Free
Telephone:
1-800-352-8404
Internet:
www.azleg.gov

Mayor Bob Walkup
791-4201

City Infoguide
[http://
cms3.tucsonaz.gov/
infoguide](http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/infoguide)

possession rights. Time, place and manner—to protect the safety of the public—in both cases. I do not believe allowing guns in parks, around young children and families enjoying our public open spaces makes us a more safe community. To the contrary. Nor do I believe that taking that position tramples on the 2nd Amendment right to keep and bear arms. I regret the decision made by the Gun Owners of America to select the one month anniversary of the January 8th shootings to come and parade outside the chambers, where a body of elected officials was meeting with members of staff and the general public, to express their displeasure with my position on the guns in parks issue. Some level of discernment might have indicated a different date and location for their event would have been more appropriate. I'm hopeful that they feel their point was made and we can move on, agreeing to disagree on this issue.

Sincerely,

Steve Kozachik
Council Member, Ward 6
www.tucsonaz.gov/ward6

Come Show Why “Tucson Has Heart”
Sunday, February 13

The public is invited to be part of the formation of a large human heart at Hi Corbett Field on Sunday, February 13, honoring the victims of the 1-8-11 tragedy, while celebrating Tucson's compassionate and courageous spirit. Organizers of the event expect more than 12,000 Tucsonans clad in red shirts to be part of the on-field “heart”, which will be photographed from a helicopter. Posters and photos will be available for purchase later, supporting charities related to 1-8-11. Commemorative red t-shirts will also be available for purchase. Gates will open at 11:00am, with the heart photograph to be taken at 2:00pm. Wear red if you wish to be part of the photograph. The Community Food Bank and the Red Cross will be on hand to receive your donations of canned food and blood, respectively. Overflow parking will be available at the northeast corner of the El Con Mall parking lot, with shuttles running to Hi Corbett. For more information, look for “Tucson Has Heart” on Facebook.





Town Hall

Fiscal 2012 City Budget

Council Member Steve Kozachik

Is hosting a Budget Presentation

Thursday, February 10, 2011

6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Ward 6 Council Office,

3202 East 1st Street

Come and hear the City Budget presentation
and participate in a discussion
about the budget. We look forward to
seeing you and hearing your ideas.

For accommodations; materials in accessible format; foreign language interpreter; and/or materials in a language other than English, contact the Ward 6 Council Office and ask for Christal Ferree at (520) 791-4601 or (520) 791-2639 for TDD at least (5 business days) in advance of this scheduled event